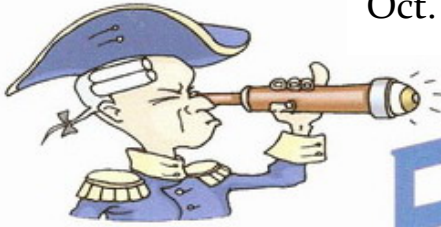


Oct. – Nov. 2009



# PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY each month at the DOUBLETREE HOTEL - 6200 Quarry Lane - INDEPENDENCE, at 7:00 PM

## It's Getting Cold!

For the 7:00 PM November 5 meeting our Program Chairman Dave Wessely brings to us an APS slide show on British Commonwealth Revenue Stamps originally developed by Regis Hoffman.



The program features finely printed, often colorful revenue stamps of the Commonwealth. Stamps that taxed common items such as documents, hunting licenses and cigarettes, as well as less common items such as hair powder, theater tickets, and licenses to operate a radio or own a dog will be

shown. It also focuses on the usage of such stamps as mint copies are often hard to find.



Dave will bring with him two large notebooks of large revenue stamped documents of southern African countries. Remember the Ohio tax stamps of another era and counting them out in piles of 100 for your church to redeem? Or perhaps you collect U.S. revenues. Here is another viewpoint in collecting.

## After Turkey Day

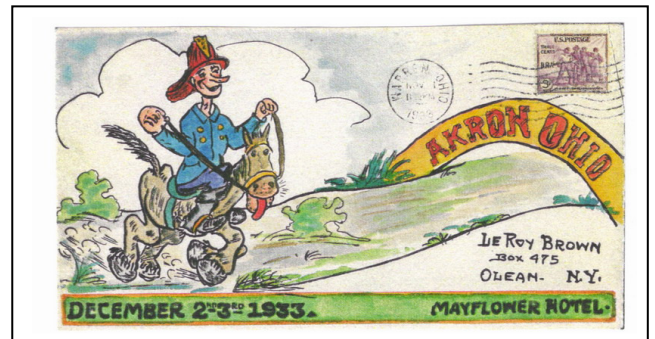
On Thurs., Dec. 3 Kurt Laubinger will speak on the Visiting Firemen of Philately. The Visiting Firemen of Philately was started by Garfield-Perry member Bruce R. McIntyre in 1933 in Beaver Falls, PA. The purpose of the organization was to promote fun and provide pleasure to

stamp meetings and conventions. Announcements were sent out in specially prepared hand painted covers by McIntyre. These meetings, called "conflagrations", were held in the evenings after the stamp show and usually lasted into the wee hours of the morning.

The VFP held the last conflagration in 1942 in Akron, and ceased to meet early in 1943. Gas was being rationed and travel to the larger stamp shows was restricted. In 2007 the Visiting Firemen of Philately was again reformed by several energetic philatelists including Kurt. The group now has members across the United States.

The VFP will be honored at the 2010 March Party where they again will be holding a conflagration. Three different covers will be available featuring cachets showing original VFP covers as shown below.

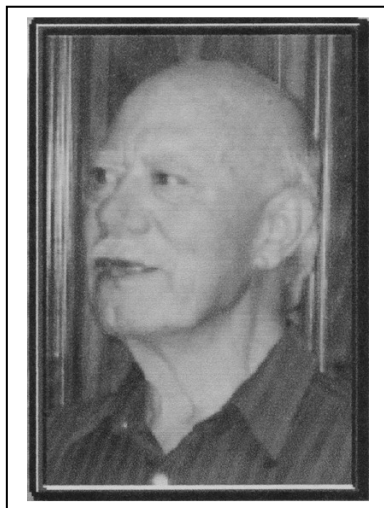
Kurt will have a power point presentation and show Visiting Firemen covers from his collection.



## Closed Album

### Reg Morris (1931-2009)

Reg passed away Sept. 25, 2009 at The Villages in Florida where he and his wife Marguerite retired in 2004. The Club has missed his presence very much while he has been in Florida and now will miss him even more.



Reg became a GP member in 1985 and by 1989 he was serving as vice president. His sense of humor and far reaching knowledge of modern postal history were always a treat to those who knew him.

Born in London, he came to the States and assumed a role as Director of International Marketing for Picker Interna-

tional. Picker, based in Cleveland, is a major supplier of MRI and sophisticated X-ray equipment. Reg traveled the world helping to sell this equipment which explains his love of world philately.

As a major contributor to philately, Reg wrote over 20 books on various mail canceling devices, most in partnership with Bob Payne who passed on back in 2005. And that wasn't his only area of authorship. More than 10 books on Scouting and scouting on stamps came from his typewriter. The hobby will sorely miss him.

### Gonna' Exhibit at March Party 2010?

The prospectus is posted on [www.garfield-perry.org](http://www.garfield-perry.org), and four exhibits have already been accepted. It's our 120th birthday. The Visiting Firemen of Philately, Machine Cancel Society and Plate Number Coil Collectors Club (regional meeting) will be with us. Come on! Get to it and get your exhibit ready for March 19-21.

### Local Club Shows

It's that time of year again. Your editor was honored along with Hans Pohler to judge the exhibits at the Cuy-Lor show on Oct. 3. Fun to do. First time anyone thought I might have more knowledge than I look to have. And at least one of the dealers was happy that I attended <g>.

The Black River Stamp Club has their one-day show on Sat., Nov. 7, 10-5 at the St. Jude School gym, 590 Poplar St., Elyria, OH. Ten dealers, USPS table, show covers, door prizes, kids table, etc.

And then Rubber City SC has their show on Nov. 14-15 at the same place as in the recent past. Akron General Health & Wellness Center, Rt. 18 at Crystal Rd., Montrose (Akron).

We will try to be more proactive in the future to let you know when/where they will be held.

### 1976 March Party

While rummaging through some of the Club's archives, I came upon a small stack of older March Party programs, so I thought I would list the dealers at the 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. How many do you remember? How many are still in business?

The Stamping Ground	Cleveland
Lincoln Stamp Co.	Columbus
Hoffer's Stamps	Cornwell, NY
Stamp-Aide Co.	Cleveland
L. Kozorog Co.	Strongsville, OH
Alan T. Atkins	Milford, OH
Henry M. Spellman III	San Anselmo, CA
Roy E. Delafosse	Tucker, GA
J. Roger Gratz	Carlisle, PA
W. E. Lea Philatelists	London, England
R. W. Tiede	Middleburg Hts., OH
Jacobson Stamp Co.	Youngstown, OH
Thomas F. Sheehan	Cleveland Hts., OH
John W. Kaufman Inc.	Washington, D.C.
Valley Stamps	Wheeling, WV
Richard Taylor	Mansfield, OH
San-Jan Stamp Co.	Pittsburgh, PA
Alfred Pundt	North Baltimore, OH
Robert Miller	Chambersburg, PA
J & D Stamps	Cincinnati
Andrew Leavitt, Inc.	Danbury, CT
DIB Enterprises	Cleveland Hts., OH
Snyder stamps	Dayton
Alfred F. Stern	Cleveland Hts., OH
Harry Woodward	Cincinnati
Robert Lippert	Detroit
Hillcrest Stamp Co.	Lyndhurst, OH
Zim's Stamps & seals	Rossville, IL
K. T. stamps	Kansas City
Robert A. Siegel	New York City
Ace Stamp Co.	North Olmsted, OH
W. F. Awig	Cleveland
Parma Stamps	Fairview Park, OH
Frank Herman	Merrifield, VA
Indian stamp Co.	Willoughby, OH
Indi Stamp Co.	Indianapolis
Robb Gordon	Livonia, MI

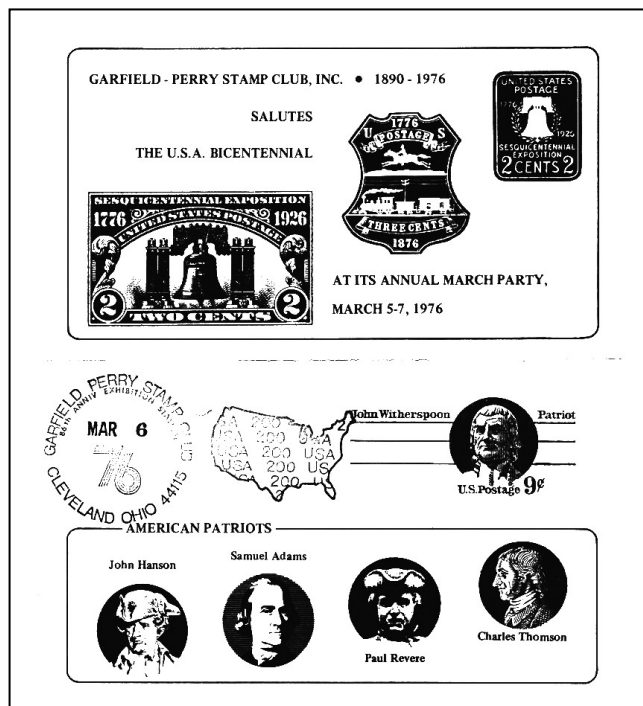
A quick look over the list showed that only one is still showing at our Party. Irv Bayer as DIB Enterprises is our stalwart. Thanks, Irv, for the many years with us.

As for still being in business, Lincoln Stamp Co., Robert Lippert and Robert Siegel are still serving the hobby, though the last two no longer make the show circuit.

Another observation is how many stamp dealers we once had in northeast Ohio. Fully one-third of the above list was from Cleveland and environs. Only one on that list remains. That's a pretty high mortality rate.

If I remember correctly, 1976 was the first time I came to the Party. I was living in Toledo and would arrive on Saturday AM and leave after closing. I collected postal cards, and the souvenir this year was the 9¢ Witherspoon card then current as shown below (sender/reply). I really

wanted one as stamp shows rarely used them as souvenirs. This is only the second such card in my collection.



Other things have changed over the years. First, it was a two day show, not three which started in 1981. There were no talks given by anyone; not by Club members nor by any visiting societies (the Confederate Stamp Alliance was there that year and will return in 2013). We currently exhibit 180 sixteen page frames and have done so for a number of years. In 1976 there were 120 twelve page frames shown though in 1975 there were 160 frames. Only one-third was from outside the club. These were the days when members were proud to show off their collections, not just to compete. Ralph Hart's exhibit of *Newfoundland - Issues of 1865-1897* won the grand that year though he was too ill to attend the Party and unfortunately passed away a short four months later.

As I went down the list of dealers' names, I also went down memory lane. Charlie Hoffer, a long-time director of the United Postal Stationery Society, specialized in postal cards and had a large inventory. I vividly remember gong through it looking for unusual usages and cancels. I still have a number of them that I remember buying. This was one of his last year on the circuit, going to mail auction sales thereafter. He suddenly closed down his business when he found someone in the company was stealing stock from him and passed away a few years ago.

Roger Gratz was a guest speaker at my DuPont Stamp Club when I was president and living in the Wilmington, DE area. At that time he ran a stamp store in York, PA, and when asked the question as to

whether the hobby was dying, he emphatically stated that it was alive and well, pointing out that many of his new clients were older folks that were searching for a new hobby in their later years.

Then there was big, roly-poly Al Pundt with his foghorn voice. When you walked onto the floor, you did not need a map to find his table; just follow the sound. He had a UX3 from Mt. Vernon, OH, with an all-over ad for land on the backside. I really wanted it, but I was not willing to pay his price of \$100. I offered one-half, and he would not move off his price. Every year for perhaps ten we preformed the same quaint ritual. I would walk up to his table, ask Al if he still had the card, he would pull it out of a cubby hole, quote his price (same as other years), I would offer one-half of that, he would say no, and we would call it quits until another year.

Finally he was forced to give up his inventory when he could not pay off indebtedness to an auction house. In turn, they put up his stock for sale. That card was not in the catalog, and he passed away a few years later. I did not see one again until this year. Then suddenly I found three of them at the Party. After all those years I finally bought one and did not pay \$100!

Henry Spellman specialized in Western covers. His net price lists were really fun to read as they were text books in themselves. Even though I did not particularly collect Western states, it was great to curl up with his catalogs on a cold winter's evening. Suddenly the catalogs stopped coming. I wrote to him, but received no reply. Though he usually pontificating about one thing or another in his editorials, nothing had prepared us for his suddenly going out of business, and there was nothing in the philatelic press concerning his possible passing. I found out later that he simply got tired of the business and decided to quite. No notice. Just quit.

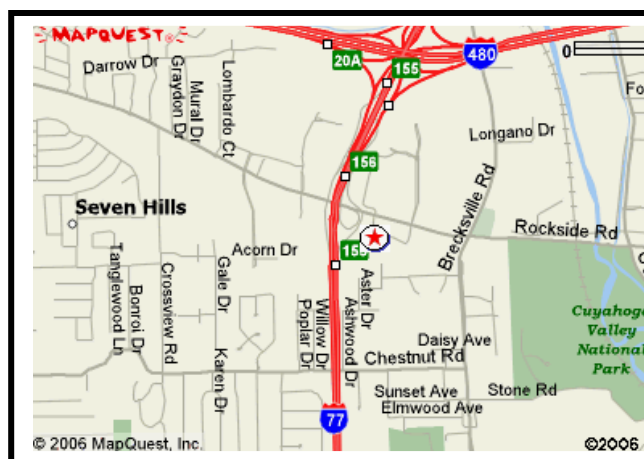
Finally there was Barbara Wallace from Chicago. She was not at the 1976 show, but took over the #41 table to the right of the registration table for a number of years. It was certainly not stereotypical for a woman to be a dealer, but she was a postal history one as well. Furthermore, get this folks, she smoked big cigars! Not little *Between the Acts* cigarillos, but regular cigars. And while she smoked, she dispensed information about postal history that could not be gotten from a book. She was more than willing to answer questions and teach postal history to anyone who sat down and asked intelligent questions.

How about the rest of you? Got other dealer memories? I think our members would like to hear them. Get back to me at my return address or at rrrroads@aol.com.

*The Perryscope*  
Garfield-Perry Stamp Club  
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rrrhoads@aol.com

**I-77 South:** \* Take I-77 South to Rockside Rd \* Turn left (East) onto Rockside Rd, to the second traffic light \* Turn right (South) onto Quarry Lane (Between Bob Evans Restaurant and Sunoco Gas Station). \* It is on the top of the hill.

Doubletree Hotel  
6200 Quarry Lane  
Independence  
(216) 447-1300



**I-480 East or West:** \* Take I-480 East or West to Exit 20 (I-77 South - Akron) \* Take I-77 South to Exit 155 (Rockside Road - Independence) \* Turn left (East) onto Rockside Road, to the second traffic light \* Turn right (South) onto Quarry Lane (Between Bob Evans Restaurant and Sunoco Gas Station). \* It is on the top of the hill.

**I-77 North:** \* Take I-77 North to Exit 155 (Rockside Road - Independence) \* Turn right (East) onto Rockside Road, to the first traffic light \* Turn right (South) onto Quarry Lane (Between Bob Evans Restaurant and Sunoco Gas Station). \* It is on the top of the hill.